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is also strange that in this section of his book the author has again made an outstanding omission: he fails to give any consideration to the preparation and writing of the business report—a subject that ought, certainly, to be included in a book bearing such an inclusive title as *Modern Business Writing*.

Despite the weaknesses of Part II, which can be easily remedied, *Modern Business Writing* is a valuable addition to the list of books on business writing because of its complete treatment of the subject of the sales letter.

EDWARD J. KILDUFF

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Current Social and Industrial Forces. By LIONEL D. EDIE. Boni & Liveright. Pp. 393. \$2.50.

This is an anthology of writings on modern economic problems, collected for the purpose of assisting the reader to comprehend the course of current history. The center of emphasis is the industrial system. How much does it produce and for whom? What are its strengths and its inefficiencies? With whom is control lodged and with whom should it be? To what extent can conscious direction be given to it for social ends?

The subtitle of the volume, however, might well have been the *New Republic's* "Book of Bright Thoughts," since the vast majority of the selections are chosen from the coterie of that journal and from their admired or admiring. Thus the list of authors quoted includes the following, most of whom are represented by two or more selections: Croly, Weyl, Lippman, Johnson, Laski, Frankfurter, Brandeis, Veblen, Tead, Brooks, Bruere, Dewey, and Robinson. The English authorities quoted are those whom we might expect from the foregoing, namely, Webb, Wells, Wallas, Angell, Cole, Russell, and Zimmern. The opinions of capital are represented by what one suspects as intellectual straw men in the form of a report or two and brief paragraphs from Judge Gary, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Otto Kahn, and Stephen C. Mason, while labor speaks directly only through three resolutions of the American Federation of Labor, Sidney Webb's draft on *Labor and the New Social Order*, and a sentence of Mr. John H. Walker's.

Now, however highly one may value the work of the *New Republic* school, and the reviewer in the main does value it highly, it neither forms as large a part of current economic forces nor of their intellectual interpretation as Mr. Edie evidently believes. The New Republicans

write well and furnish a quota of intellectual spice, but in the main they are reluctant to do the hard grubbing for facts which is so necessary if we are to solve the problems presented by our industrial system, and they are almost totally lacking in humility.

The usefulness of the present volume would have been greatly increased had more factual material been included. Moreover, it would have given a much fairer picture had excerpts been taken from the writings of such penetrating and incisive defenders of the present order as Herbert Hoover and Professor Carver, or from such economic humanists as Professor Taussig. Why indeed should Mr. Edie omit the contributions of such men as Hadley, Commons, Seligman, Vanderlip, and Roberts?

There is indeed only one thing wanting to commend this book to the dilettante liberals, and that is that it does not begin with an introduction by Mr. R. H. Tawney.

PAUL H. DOUGLAS

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American Foreign Trade. By WILLIAM F. NOTZ AND RICHARD S. HARVEY. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1921. Pp. xv+521.

The authors of this book have sought to furnish a handbook for the study of certain aspects of world-trade which shall describe the new "trade machinery," outline the economic and legal conditions which have given rise to a need for such machinery, and provide a background for the clearer understanding of the controlling elements in national trade policy. They think the work may be of value in schools of commerce, to lawyers, and business men planning the organization of export associations, and to students of economics. There is a good deal of solid reason for feeling that this rather varied and ambitious program has been carried out with at least partial success. It is not easy to construct a work which shall be at once a guide, philosopher, and friend, and the shortcomings of the book are largely those which must be expected by those who embark upon any such undertaking.

A different view of the book would describe it as a discussion of the Webb-Pomerene and Edge Acts and their relations to export trade and to antitrust legislation, especially as affected by the late war. In this more modest light the volume presents a more attractive appearance and needs little apology. The least valuable element is probably found in the first three parts which occupy 153 pages and review the antitrust